

while, at the same time, thousands of miles away, the flag of Maryland waved above the Governor's Palace in the capital city of the State of Rio.

I think that my good friend, Governor Torres, of our sister State, best described the meaning of this mutual display of flags in a letter that arrived only a few days ago. He described the ceremony as simple but meaningful and noted that its purpose was and I quote, "to acknowledge the warm and friendly ties which now exist between our two States and their respective citizens."

Two weeks ago, another letter arrived at my office from a group of college students in Western Maryland who expressed an interest in the Partners of the Alliance Program and asked how they too could participate in a meaningful way. The activity that has taken place since the launching of the Partners Program is, indeed, gratifying to me and my only regret is that we did not undertake this program sooner.

Maryland and Rio are two states that share not only the same hemisphere but also many of the same interests and problems. We are linked together not only by trade and commerce but by a common desire for peace and understanding in international affairs. Both Rio and Maryland possess long stretches of fabulous Atlantic beaches, mammoth steel mills, attractive mountain resort areas, extensive harbor facilities and both are adjacent to large independent federal government centers. But the strongest bond between our two States is reflected in the firm desire on the part of our citizens to share in the solution to common problems and to assist each other in providing a good life for our people. Both as Governor and as a citizen of Maryland, I find it especially gratifying that the people of our State are now able to play a beneficial role in international affairs. As I have noted before, one of the chief advantages of the Partners Program is that it permits private citizens to take a useful and active part in a program of vital importance to the free world.

It is my sincere hope, as I know it is yours, that the warm relationship that now exists between the sister States of Rio de Janeiro and Maryland will continue to grow stronger and that travel and communication between our respective communities will increase as more and more of our citizens become aware of the importance of the Partners Program. It is my belief that we have within our grasp the opportunity to expand our horizons through the exchange of ideas and talents and through the development of a mutual appreciation of our respective cultures.